

VII. RESOURCE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

1. INTRODUCTION

This section discusses various environmental resources, by resource type (i.e., geology, hydrology, etc.). The categories selected are generally consistent with the initial study checklist (Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines), although some discussion areas have been expanded where detailed discussion is warranted (i.e., biology) or combined where there are little to no project-related impacts.

Each resource category begins with a detailed discussion of the setting (typically at both regional and local levels), specifically as it relates to the resources being discussed. Setting information in each resource category is followed by a discussion of regulatory standards and policies or measures proposed as part of the DFMP that would achieve impact reductions. Potential actions resulting from the DFMP are then compared to the identified thresholds of significance to determine whether mitigation measures are warranted. Cumulative effects are discussed, where applicable, within each resource section, and again in a separate chapter. Pertinent technical reports are included in the appendices.

1.1 Areas to Be Studied

Areas of study include the following:

EIR Resource Study Areas		
Abiotic Resources		Biological Resources
Aesthetics	Land Use and Planning	Agriculture
Air Quality	Noise	Aquatics
Geology and Soils	Public Services,	Botanical
Hazards/Hazardous Mat.	Population, and Housing	Timber
Heritage Resources	Recreation	Wetlands
Hydrology/Water Quality	Transportation and Traffic	Wildlife

1.2 Resources Not Present or Unaffected by Project

Resources not present or substantially unaffected by the project include agricultural lands, mineral resources, housing, services, and utilities. These resources are briefly discussed elsewhere in this section (Sections VII.3, VII.4, and VII.13, respectively).

1.3 Applicable Regulations

Each environmental resource category discusses applicable regulatory standards. Many of these requirements serve to reduce the level of potential impact. It is important, however, that the description for each regulatory standard specify when such standards apply, and the general triggers for when an activity would be subject to these standards.

1.4 Thresholds of Significance

Each resource category provides criteria to guide in determining whether impacts resulting from the JDSF Management Plan are significant. Generally, this EIR adopts significance criteria consistent with the CEQA Guidelines and Initial Study Checklist (CEQA Guidelines Appendix G). These thresholds are based largely on adopted standards by local, State, and Federal agencies. Project consistency with applicable standards is a good initial measure of significant effects; however, prior to making a conclusion regarding an impact's level of significance, this EIR further reviews each standard to determine applicability to the project.

1.5 Impacts

Based on the setting, regulatory standards, and thresholds of significance for a particular resource, a determination is made regarding whether potential actions resulting from the JDSF Management Plan would have significant adverse impacts. If not, the effect is identified as having "no impact," a "less than significant" impact, or a "beneficial" impact.

Where natural resources are concerned, it is important to recognize that the general goal of the JDSF Management Plan is to achieve net improvements of conditions for all natural resources over time in comparison to existing conditions. This goal has been ongoing since the property was acquired by the State in the 1940s and 1950s. The site was acquired in a degraded condition, but over time, has notably improved in most of the resource categories.

Impacts are considered for both the short- and long-term. Short- and long-term effects are typically related and evaluated in terms of net effect. For example, grading to remediate a road with severe erosion near a stream may result in a short-term increase in sedimentation despite the use of best management practices and compliance with all standards. The long-term effect, however, would be beneficial due to elimination of a chronic erosion source.

Impacts are also assessed for direct and indirect effects such as direct impacts related to grading and indirect impacts related to sedimentation in fish-spawning areas. As stated earlier, on-site as well as off-site activities and impacts are also considered. Cumulative impacts are also considered within each resources section, as well as in Section VIII, Cumulative Impacts.

CEQA also requires an examination of growth-inducing effects, which has little or no applicability to the JDSF Management Plan project. In addition, CEQA requires discussion of unavoidable impacts resulting from the project, significant irreversible environmental changes, and mitigation monitoring. Section IX discusses these four areas in general.

1.6 Mitigation

In general, the DFMP anticipates potentially significant impacts of Plan implementation and provides mitigation capable of reducing impacts to a level of less than significant. However, where this EIR identifies potential significant impacts despite measures proposed in the JDSF Management Plan, one or more mitigation measures are specified that would reduce the impact level below the significance threshold. Mitigation measures may include:

- **Avoiding** the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- **Minimizing** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- **Rectifying** the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- **Reducing or eliminating** the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
- **Compensating** for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Avoidance is the preferred method and can typically be accomplished for resources that are not widespread throughout the Forest (e.g., cultural resources, listed plants, etc.). Where a resource is not avoided, impacts would first be minimized, then rectified, reduced and compensated within the same disturbance area or elsewhere on JDSF (CCR Section 15370).

Impact assessment and mitigation are stated in general terms where the specific details of a particular activity are not known, and cannot be known at this time. This is particularly true for a Program EIR such as this that must forecast the impacts of actions resulting from policy decisions. Most often, programmatic or policy-level mitigation is either included in the DFMP or is provided as part of this EIR. Individual project level mitigation may be deferred to a subsequent impact assessment where the scope or site-specific details of the action are currently speculative, not fully known, or not analyzed to a sufficient degree in this EIR. In these cases, additional CEQA review is required once the activity is fully defined in terms of scope, location and other factors. This review, where necessary for identification of additional mitigation, will occur in the development of Timber Harvesting Plans, EIRs, or negative declarations that tier off of this document.

1.7 Cross-Referencing

Certain types of impact discussion may cross-over into two or more resource categories. For example, erosion/sedimentation issues could be discussed in terms of Geology (erosion), Water Quality (turbidity), and Biology (sedimentation affecting stream habitat). Table VII.1.1 provides a general reference regarding closely related topics. This is intended to direct the reader to additional information.

1.8 Reference Availability

References are cited throughout this section, and all references are listed in Appendix 6 of this EIR. The public notice for review of this EIR will specify contact information for the public and agencies to access all referenced information.

Table VII.1.1. General References Regarding Closely Related Topics.

	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Aquatic Resources	Botanical Resources	Timber Resources	Wetlands	Wildlife	Geology and Soils	Hazards/Hazardous Materials	Heritage Resources	Hydrology/Water Quality	Land Use and Planning	Noise	Recreation	Transportation/Traffic
Aesthetics			X		X	X				X	X	X		X	
Air Quality					X										X
Aquatic Resources	X			X	X	X	X	X			X				
Botanical Resources			X		X	X	X				X				
Timber Resources	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Wetlands	X		X	X			X	X			X				
Wildlife			X	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
Geology and Soils			X		X	X					X				X
Hazards/Hazardous Materials					X										X
Heritage Resources	X													X	X
Hydrology/Water Quality	X		X	X	X	X	X	X							
Land Use and Planning	X				X								X	X	X
Noise					X		X					X		X	X
Recreation	X				X		X			X		X	X		X
Transportation/Traffic		X					X		X	X		X	X	X	